RSC
Republican Study Committee

GPO PRINTS 6,000 CONGRESSIONAL RECORDS EVERY DAY CONGRESS IS IN SESSION, AT A COST OF $22.2 MILLION PER YEAR
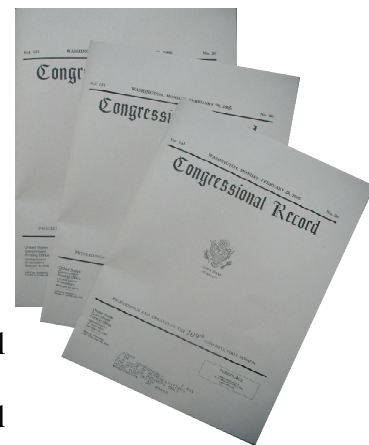
Congressional Record

United States of America   PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE *109th* CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

House of Representatives

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD FACTS[1]:

➢ GPO prints approximately <u>6,000 copies</u> of the Congressional Record <u>daily</u> when Congress is in session.

➢ Of the 6,000 copies printed daily, over 1,400 are distributed to House offices, Committees and post offices, over 1,500 are distributed to Senate offices and Committees, and the remaining 2,900 copies are distributed to various sources, including federal agencies and federal depository libraries at taxpayers' expense.

➢ The FY06 Presidential request for the Congressional Printing and Binding budget is $22.2 million for GPO to compile, print and distribute the Congressional Record.

➢ The overall Congressional Printing and Binding request for FY06 is $92.3 million, a 4.8% increase over FY05.

➢ It costs GPO over $6.5 million annually just to *print* the Congressional Record.

DOES CONGRESS NEED GPO TO PRINT THIS MANY RECORDS?

➢ The Congressional Record is available online, and the complete text may be searched as far back as 1989.[2]

➢ One copy of the Congressional Record, the Calendar, and the Index is delivered to every House and Senate office each morning. An unofficial survey of House offices found that the vast majority go unread and often directly deposited into recycling bins the same day they arrive.

POTENTIAL ANNUAL SAVINGS[3]:

➢ <u>$3.2 million would be saved</u> by reducing the number of Congressional Records printed daily to 3,000 copies.

➢ <u>$5.4 million would be saved</u> by reducing the number of Congressional Records printed daily to 1,000 copies.

➢ <u>57 fewer tons (114,000 pounds) worth of paper would be delivered to Capitol Hill annually</u> by reducing the number of Congressional Records printed for Member offices by 50%.[4]

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[1] Source: Legislative Branch Appropriations for FY06: Part 1, Justification of the Budget Hearings

[2] CRS Report 98-266: The full text of the Congressional Record is available online through GPO from 1994 to the present, and available through the Library of Congress and Legislative Information System from 1989 to the present.

[3] Based on cost figures provided by a GPO Congressional Printing official, it costs $6.5 million annually to print the Congressional Record (excluding compilation, preparation and distribution).

[4] Roughly 228,000 pounds of paper are consumed annual in the printing of the Congressional Record.